

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /061 W

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P R 230702Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3996

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3328

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON 23 MARCH 1975 BEING REPEATED TO
YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: BIEN HOA 200

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH MR3 CHIEF OF
STAFF, COL MINH, AT 1000 HOURS MARCH 23. THERE WAS A NOTABLE
DECLINE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION DURING THE
AFTERNOON OF MARCH 22 AND CONTINUING OVERNIGHT. THE SITUATION
WAS GENERALLY QUIET IN BOTH THE EASTERN PROVINCES AND IN THE
TAY NINH AREA IN THE WEST EXCEPT FOR A RENEWAL OF NVA/VC
ATTACKS AGAINST THE 7TH ARVN REGT ALONG ROUTE 26 IN TAY NINH
ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 23. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO WEEKS
THE BIEN HOA AREA HAS HAD NO ROCKET ATTACKS UP TO 1100 HOURS
MARCH 23.

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2. THE SITUATION HAS BEEN GENERALLY QUIET IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. A SMALL UNIT ATTEMPTED TO PENETRATE XUAN LOC, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF LONG KHANH, NEAR THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S HQS ABOUT MIDNIGHT MARCH 22-23, BUT WAS BEATEN BACK AFTER A SHARP FIRE FIGHT. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 22 THE GVN SUCCESSFULLY AIRLIFTED THE 3RD BN OF THE 43RD ARVN REGT, TOTALING SOME 300 MEN, TOGETHER WITH SOME RF AND PF TROOPS FROM THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS OUTSIDE OF HOAI DUC. THE BN WAS BROUGHT TO XUAN LOC WHERE IT WILL JOIN OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH ARVN DIV IN THE DEFENSE OF LONG KHANH PROVINCE.

3. IN TAY NINH, THE NVA BROKE OFF THEIR HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST THE 7TH REGT ALONG LTL-26 (SEE REFTTEL) DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 22 WITH THE GVN HAVING HELD ITS DEFENSE LINE. GVN CASUALTIES IN THE 7TH REGT DURING THAT ATTACK WERE GIVEN AS TEN KIA, 65WIA, AND 25 MIA. NVA CASUALTIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN REPORTED. THE NVA RENEWED THE ATTACK, PARTICULARLY AT TRUONG MIT XT 4040, ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 23 WITH REPORTS THAT TANKS HAD BEEN SIGHTED ON THE ATTACKING SIDE. MINH WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TANKS COULD BE DEALT WITH BY ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE OPERATING IN SUPPORT OF THE 7TH REGT.

4. THE MR3 TOC LOG FOR MARCH 22-23 IS REPORTING THAT RF TROOPS AT MO CONG NW OF TAY NINH CITY, BEFORE WITHDRAWING FROM OUTPOSTS 1 AND 2 ON MORNING OF MARCH 22, KILLING 30 AND 200 NVA RESPECTIVELY. COL MINH CONCURS THAT, WHILE THE RF PROBABLY GAVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES BEFORE WITHDRAWING, THESE KIA REPORTS WERE PROBABLY EXAGGERATED.

PETERS
UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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